

## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# Press Release

For Immediate Release:  
Friday, March 4, 2011

Contact: Teri N. Pope  
(770) 718-3924 Office  
(404) 274-6436 Cell

### WORKING ANYTIME WEATHER PERMITS EXCEPT WEEKDAY RUSH HOURS I-85 EXPRESS LANES IN DEKALB AND GWINNETT

DULUTH, Ga. – Spring has brought the warmer weather needed for construction. The sun and rising temperatures allow for more work to occur. To date, much of the work on the Express Lane project has been underground; boring and installing new conduit. The work is shifting to more above ground work. Support structures for new signage, cameras and sensors are being installed along the interstate. As weather continues to improve, motorists will see more new pieces of the Express Lane system appear along and over the roadway.

The existing High Occupancy Vehicle lanes will continue in operation allowing vehicles with 2 or more people, motorcycles and alternate fuel vehicles to use the lanes until this Fall when the Express Lane System is opened. Please visit [www.georgiatolls.com](http://www.georgiatolls.com) for additional information.

Lane closures are scheduled to occur day, night and through the weekend on the Interstate 85 Express Lanes project in DeKalb and Gwinnett Counties. Georgia DOT's contractor, World Fiber Technologies will work almost around the clock as weather permits.

**Daytime work** along the median wall will close the HOV lane in one or two locations in both directions weekdays this week. Work hours northbound are from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and southbound work hours at from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., between peak commute hours.

Monday, 7 from north of Old Peachtree Rd to SR 317/Lawrenceville Suwanee Rd and a second work zone from Sugarloaf Parkway to approximately 1 mile north of Sugarloaf Parkway

Tuesday, 8 from north of SR 317/Lawrenceville Suwanee Rd to I-985 and a second work zone from SR 140/Jimmy Carter Blvd to Indian Trail Rd

Wednesday, 9 from SR 140/Jimmy Carter Blvd to Indian Trail Rd

Thursday, 10 and Friday, 11 from Indian Trail Rd to Steve Reynolds Blvd

The work plan requires lane closures northbound and southbound **each weeknight**. Both directions of the High Occupancy Vehicle lane or inside lane will close overnight at these locations if weather permits. Northbound lane closures will begin at 10 p.m. and continue overnight to 5 a.m. the next day. Southbound lane closures will begin at 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. the next day.

Sunday, 6 for work along the median wall from Old Peachtree Road to State Route 317/  
Lawrenceville Suwanee Road

Monday, 7 a work zone will be in place from Old Peachtree Road to State Route 317/ Lawrenceville Suwanee Road and a second work zone from SR 140/Jimmy Carter Blvd to Indian Trail Road

Tuesday, 8 from Indian Trail Road to Steve Reynolds Blvd on I-85 north only, after 11 p.m. a second left lane will be closed to traffic until 5 a.m.

Wednesday, 9 from Indian Trail Road to Steve Reynolds Blvd on I-85 south only, after 11 p.m. a second left lane will be closed to traffic until 5 a.m.

Thursday, 10 and Friday, 11 from Indian Trail Rd to Steve Reynolds Blvd

**Weekend work** will continue every weekend that weather allows. Crews will work on the new concrete foundations for the new overhead structures. These new structures will support the technological infrastructure and signage needed to operate the Express Lane System.

The work plan for Friday, 4 through Monday, 7 requires closings lanes on the interstate both north and southbound. Beginning at 9 p.m. Friday through 5 a.m. Monday, the two left lanes of I-85 north and one left lane of I-85 south will close. The lanes will be closed from Northcrest Rd in DeKalb County to SR 140/Jimmy Carter Blvd in Gwinnett County.

The I-85 Express Lanes Project includes installation of 16 miles of fiber and signage along Interstate Highway 85 between Chamblee Tucker Road and Old Peachtree Road and along State Route 316 between I-85 and Riverside Parkway.

When completed, registered transit buses, motorcycles, alternative fueled vehicles and vehicles with three or more passengers will be allowed to use the inside (left) HOT lane for free, while single- and double-occupant vehicles will be allowed to use the lane if they choose to pay a variably priced toll.

For additional information and construction updates on this project, please email Teri Pope at [tpope@dot.ga.gov](mailto:tpope@dot.ga.gov).

Georgia DOT urges travelers to call 511 for updated information about these or any other construction projects on interstates and state routes. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, such as traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays due to inclement weather. Callers also can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More information is available at [www.511ga.org](http://www.511ga.org).

###